

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

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STATE FOR OES - AMB PICKERING; COMMERCE FOR ASST SEC BARUCH;
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E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: TGEN IS
SUBJ: US-ISRAEL BIRDF GOVERNORS' MEETING

REF.: STATE 198695

1. ALL THREE ISRAELI GOVERNORS HAVE AGREED TO ATTEND
MEETING DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. SCIATT HAS SPOKEN WITH
ALL RECENTLY TO LEARN VIEWS WHICH THEY MAY EXPRESS
AT THE MEETING.

2. SIVAN SAID THAT HE WILL HAVE NO PART OF A CONFRONTATION.
HE SAID THAT HE PREFERS AN INFORMAL, FRIENDLY
MEETING TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO RETAIN BLACKMAN AND AT
THE SAME TIME TO INSURE THAT NO RIFT DEVELOPS BETWEEN
US AND ISRAELI GOVERNORS SIMPLY FROM LACK OF SUFFICIENT
COMMUNICATION. SIVAN SAID THAT HE DOES NOT FOLLOW
BIRDF VERY CLOSELY BUT BELIEVES, FROM INFORMATION HE
HAS RECEIVED, THAT RESULTS TO DATE HAVE BEEN INSUFFICIENT.
COMMENT: SCIATT EXPECTS SIVAN TO BE SWAYED MORE BY U.S.
VIEWS THAN BY LAVIE'S VIEWS BECAUSE SIVAN WILL GIVE LESS
WEIGHT TO BIRDF THAN TO WHAT HE SEES AS POTENTIAL DAMAGE

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TO US-ISRAELI RELATIONS.

3. MARHAIM SEEMS BETTER INFORMED ABOUT BIRDF. HE SAID THAT
TWO MATTERS BOTHERED HIM. FIRST, THERE HAVE BEEN NO GRANTS
MADE, NOT EVEN ANY \$10,000 PRELIMINARY GRANTS, ALTHOUGH HE
KNOWS THAT MANY ISRAELI FIRMS ARE INTERESTED. HE HAS NO
GOOD EXPLANATION FOR THIS. ON THE OTHER HAND, MARHAIM

NOTED THAT BLACKMAN SEEMS VERY BUSY IN MAKING HIS PERSONAL ARRANGEMENTS, RENTING AND FURNISHING HOUSE, OBTAINING CAR, ETC. HE SAID THAT BLACKMAN'S PROGRESS IN PERSONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND LACK OF IT IN HIS BUSINESS MAKES HIM QUESTION BLACKMAN'S JUDGEMENT. HE THOUGHT THAT BLACKMAN "MAY HAVE AN INABILITY TO CRYSTALLIZE THINGS -- HE'S GOOD AT POINTING OUT ALTERNATIVES." HE SAID THAT, "BLACKMAN THINKS WE HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD," BUT THAT "WE ARE USED TO QUICKER RESULTS." COMMENT: WHILE MARHAIM MAY BE MORE FORTHCOMING THAN SIVAN, SCIATT BELIEVES THAT HE WILL BE CAUTIOUS IN TALKING WITH U S GOVERNORS.

4. LAVIE DOES NOT SEE ANY EVIDENCE OF REAL PROGRESS BY BIRDF EITHER BEFORE BLACKMAN'S MID-APRIL ARRIVAL HERE OR SINCE. HE NOTES THAT BLACKMAN'S LIST OF 40 PROSPECTS IN THE JUNE 3 REPORT TO GOVERNORS CAME ALMOST ENTIRELY FROM FIRMS MADE KNOWN TO HIM BY LAVIE'S OFFICE. HE SAID THAT BLACKMAN HAS DONE LITTLE TO MOVE THESE COMPANIES FORWARD TOWARD FIRM PROPOSALS. LAVIE IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED AT BLACKMAN'S INSISTENCE ON MAKING ONLY 3 TO 4 GRANTS PER YEAR, NOTING THAT IT IS WITHIN THE MEANS OF THE FOUNDATION TO DO SIGNIFICANTLY MORE.

5. LAVIE SAID THAT BLACKMAN'S LACK OF FLEXIBILITY IN ADMINISTERING THE GUIDELINES IMPEDES PROGRESS AND EVEN LOSES GOOD POTENTIAL APPLICANTS. HE NOTED THAT CHOMERICS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(MEDICAL ELECTRODES) HAD BEEN A VERY GOOD PROSPECT BUT WITHDREW LAST WEEK BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO CHOMERICS, THE EARLIEST DATE FOR A GRANT WOULD BE ABOUT TEN MONTHS FROM NOW, BY WHICH TIME COMPETING FIRMS WILL HAVE OVERTAKEN THE PROJECT. HE SAID THAT VISHAY (PRECISION RESISTORS) HAS ALSO WITHDRAWN BECAUSE THEY UNDERSTAND THAT THE "CONDITIONAL GRANT" (SEE BOG RESOLUTION 26) IS REALLY A 7 1/2 PERCENT LOAN AND VISHAY CAN GET BETTER TERMS FROM OTHER SOURCES. AMES YISSUM (MEDICAL KIT) IS ALSO UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE WITHDRAWN FOR SIMILAR REASONS.

6. SCIATT ANTICIPATES THAT LAVIE WILL BE CHIEF GOI SPOKESMAN AT AUGUST 16 MEETING WITH SIVAN AND MARHAIM DOING MORE LISTENING THAN TALKING, AT LEAST INITIALLY. ALL THREE ARE DETERMINED TO PREVENT DISSENSION WITHIN THE BOG AND WILL PROBABLY ACCEPT ANY SOLUTION WHICH THEY BELIEVE NECESSARY TO PRESERVE HARMONY. ALL THREE ISRAELI GOVERNORS ARE AWARE THAT ANY REPLACEMENT FOR BLACKMAN, EVEN TEMPORARY, MUST BE A U S CITIZEN. LEWIS

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